Ford Asks Hill for $850,000 for Nixon

8/30/74

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford yesterday asked Congress for a supplemental appropriation of $850,000 to cover the transistional costs of Richard M. Nixon returning to private life and to pay the pension and other allowances due Mr. Nixon until June 30, 1975.

Congress is free to vote all, part or none of the amount requested.

The presidential transition act of 1963 authorizes $450,000 for transition costs of a former President in the first six months after he leaves office.

The additional $400,000 that Mr. Ford proposed will be used to pay through the current fiscal year the former President's pension, office and other expenses allowed under the former president's act of 1958.

The latter amount is designed to cover the former President's annual pension of $60,000, $96,000 for staff salaries and a special allowance of $244,000 requested by Mr. Nixon to establish an office in San Clemente, Calif. The pension and staff allowance would continue as long as Mr. Nixon lives.

The $244,000, if approved by Congress, would be administered by the General Services Administration. It would provide $40,000 for travel, $5,000 for office supplies, $65,000 for furnishings, $21,000 for communications, $1,000 for printing and $103,000 for miscellaneous.

White House press assistant John Carlson said that the funds requested through GSA are "comparable to what former President Johnson received after leaving office, adjusted for inflation."

Mr. Nixon can request supplemental appropriations in future years, but the requests would be subject to congressional scrutiny.

Carlson said Mr. Nixon would be within the law if he used some of the $96,000 for staff to pay lawyers' fees but that he may not pay legal fees out of the $103,000 miscellaneous fund.

Carlson said, however, that secretarial costs probably would eat up most of the $96,000 in the first year. Rose Mary Woods, Mr. Nixon's personal secretary, has been paid in the $40,000 range, he said, and there are several assistants to help handle the large volume of mail the ex-President has received since leaving Washington Aug. 9.

The cost of providing Secret Service protection for the former President is not included in the appropriation request; it is covered in the Secret Service budget.

President Ford is scheduled to fly to Columbus, Ohio, today to address the summer graduating class of Ohio State University, keeping an engagement he made when he was Vice President.

He will return to Washington immediately after his speech. He is expected to make his first visit to Camp David, Md., Saturday but return to Washington in time to sign the pension reform act at the White House on Labor Day. Mrs. Ford will accompany the President to Camp David.

The President conferred yesterday with Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers union, the fourth labor chief he has met with since becoming President.

Through press secretary J. F. erHorst, the President made it clear he does not support Attorney General William B. Saxbe' esuggestion that a national police force may be needed to fight crime.

Saxbe said Tuesday that "we have lost the initiative in the war ainst crime" and that if the trend is not reversd the nation "would be faced with the prospect of falling apart or devising a national police force in one final effort to restore domestic order."

Asked about Saxbe's comment, terHorst said there "will not be a national police force in the Ford administration."

Meeting with 27 presidential appointees—all women—the President promised to appoint more women to his administration.

He also instructed his energy advisers to draw up a list of "must" bills aimed at making the United States self-sufficient in energy, terHorst reported.

In a meeting with White House counselor Dean Burch, Mr. Ford discussed the forthcoming congressional elections, but an official said the President does not plan to do much campaigning this year.

The President may make one or two campaign swings, the official said, but he believes the best thing he can do politically is to stay in Washington and tend to the nation's business.